

Richardson

Talking Points

-- It gives me immense pleasure to welcome Elliott Richardson back to public service and to mark his swearing in as our Ambassador to the Court of Saint James.

-- Elliott is no stranger to this Department. He served ably as our Under Secretary of State from 1969 to 1970 where he turned in a virtuoso performance and established a much-deserved reputation for excellence. From this position, Elliott embarked on a spectacular succession of Cabinet positions in which he served our nation with even greater distinction. Indeed he established a career pattern which is the envy of his successors, most notably Joe Sisco who I know harbors visions of grandeur -- despite my best efforts.

-- Embassies, I am beginning to suspect, have a peculiar fascination for former Attorneys General -- but it seems not for Secretaries of Labor. Bill Saxbe has just departed for New Delhi where he will be greeted with extraordinary warmth. As his predecessor, you, Elliott, are about to leave us for the Court of Saint James. [There remains one other Attorney General who would, if he could, follow this pattern. I gather, however, that one of his successors has other plans for him.]

-- Elliott's early background also should stand him in good stead in London. Being from Massachusetts, "Cradle of Liberty," it is particularly fitting that he represent our nation during the bicentennial

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years in London. This mission technically should keep you well occupied overseas until 1984 -- January 14 , to be exact, the date Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris formally establishing our Independence.

-- Had the current Congress reviewed this Treaty, however, I wonder whether there would have been any end to the present bicentennial celebration -- or to the exchange of correspondence, waiver authority and amendments which now seem to mark many joint legislative/executive efforts in foreign affairs.

-- In a more serious vein, I would like to stress that Elliott Richardson's Ambassadorship only enhances a long tradition, stretching back to the foundation of our Republic, of sending some of our most eminent statesmen to the Court of Saint James.

-- This is true because of the critical importance we attach to our relationship with London. The United Kingdom is an honored ally and the source of inspiration for so many of America's greatest achievements. Our ties in history and strategic interest are and shall remain profoundly intimate.

-- As our Ambassador to the Court of Saint James, Elliott Richardson will dedicate his extraordinary ability, integrity and energy to maintaining the closest possible cooperation between our two countries. He also will carry forward the important and related task of consulting with the United Kingdom on a broad range of matters affecting our

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-- I am totally confident, Elliott, that you will represent America with the highest distinction and shall succeed in this mission as all others you have undertaken in the public's service.